same time; for he too was brought up at the 'public office,' on the somewhat odd charge of endeavouring to improve his employer's 'pig-iron,' or give to it some useful quality in which he probably thought it deficient, by throwing into a 'donkey' of it, a quantity of good tough bar-iron, whereby a loss of about 10*l.* *might have been* sustained by his employer in purse, whatever excellence or celebrity it might have given to his 'donkey' of 'pig.' The puddler, Elijah Green, was only summoned for summary punishment, but "*as* it came out that the bar-iron used was the property of Mr. Barker (the 'donkey' proprietor in this case, rather oddly, and not the Barker of the police bench in the other case), the magistrates considered the offence of a felonious character," and committed the prisoner for trial at the sessions. Are we to presume, then, that if the bar-iron had belonged to any one else but the proprietor of the pig itself, thus benefited in quality, the offence would *not* have been of a felonious character? Or was it supposed, till the truth 'came out,' that the puddler was green enough, or rich enough, or generous enough, —but why in such a case *guilty* enough,—to have put ten pounds' worth of good bar-iron, purchased by himself, into his master's pig-donkey?

Correspondence.

THE NEW GROWN PIECE.

SIR,—With all due respect for Mr. Britton and the metre, if not the matter of his quotation from the poet Crabbe, I would submit the former is not altogether happy in his onslaught on the dead languages, which appears in your paper of Saturday last.

Assuredly something more than "custom or common-place prejudice" has conspired to render the Latin language eligible, even in these days of "the diffusion of knowledge," for architectural inscriptions, coins, and other such historical records. It may not be the "vernacular idiom of the country," but is is (what our vernacular can never hope to be) the language, more or less, of the learned in all countries; and they are, after all, the most likely people to care for the meaning of an inscription on a coin.

To one so conversant with English antiquities as your learned correspondent, the language of Bede, of Chaucer, or Spenser, may be an idiom patent as ours of 1847; but to my humble self, and "the million," whom we hear so much about, it is indeed a dead and a buried language; and I cannot but think that were the inscription on Mr. Wyon's coin "done into English," the chance of its going *far* down to posterity translateable is somewhat problematical.

Flatly opposite Mr. Britton's letter, you have incontinently placed your account of the laying of the foundation-stone of Miss Burdett Coutts's new church. Haply, Sir, when our "vernacular" shall be, as Bede's and Chaucer's almost already is, forgotten, some future Britton shall dig up the foundations of Mr. Ferrey's church, decipher and translate this odious Latin inscription, and publish to "the million" of that day, the piety of the benevolent foundress.—I am, Sir, &c.,

WILLIAM YOUNG.

London, July 26, 1847.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND NATIONAL GALLERY, &c.—A return moved for by Mr. Hume, shows that 825,901 persons visited the British Museum in 1846, viz., 750,601 to the general collection, 66,784 to the reading-rooms, 4,126 to the sculpture galleries, and 4,390 to the print-rooms. The number of visiters to the National Gallery in the year 1846 amounted to 608, 40. The pictures purchased for the National Gallery since August 6, 1846, are three in number; viz., 1, Philip IV. of Spain hunting the wild boar, by Velasquez, from Lord Cowley's collection, for 2,200*l.*; 2, Annibale Caracci's Temptation of Anthony, from the Earl of Dartmouth's collection, for 787*l.* 10s.; and 3, Raffaelle's Vision of a Knight, from the collection of the Rev. T. Egerton, heir to Lady Sykes, for 1,050*l.* The number of visiters to the armouries at the Tower of London in 1846 amounted to 52,287 only.

Miscellanea.

WATER COMPANIES.—Sir: What I complain of water companies is, they have no printed regulations for us to go by, and we are at all times at a loss to know what to insert in specifications in respect of this work; and is the supply of half an hour each day the water is turned on, three days a week, sufficient? I think if the directors were to read the lectures of Dr. Conolly, and the remarks contained in the *London Journal* on the public health, which says,—"to preserve health and avoid typhus fever, use as much water in the house as you possibly can," &c., and in another article it says "keep the skin well washed," &c., they would then perhaps alter their opinions and system. I think there appears something wanting on the part of the West Middlesex, as they are not much above the force of the artesian well, and there is a wide difference between their ferules or unions and those of the New River Company; one has it to the full scope of the pipe, and the other contends that the ferules shall be one-fourth less to prevent friction, and be at the same time sufficiently large. ARCHI.

FOREIGN.—Three pashas have put down their names as honorary members of the Mechanics' Institution recently established at Constantinople.——Mehemet Ali has refused to allow the European population of Alexandria to erect an equestrian statue as a tribute of respect to him, but a more useful monument in the form of public chambers for an exchange, theatre, and club-house, has been countenanced. The façades are to be ornamented with bas-reliefs in marble, of the barrage of the Nile, and the emblems of agriculture and commerce, intermingled with military trophies. A marble bust of the viceroy, and a marble tablet of the founders' names, are also to be erected. ——The municipal council of Copenhagen has resolved to establish baths for the use of the poor, on the model of those lately constructed in England.——A cargo of 20,000 Dutch bricks has been imported at Liverpool for home consumption.——A quantity of granite is also said to have arrived from China!

LIABILITY OF RAILWAY CONTRACTORS.—In the County Court at Newcastle on Tuesday week, a Mr. Fairbairn complained, by action, that whilst some workmen engaged by Messrs. Rush and Lawton, contractors, in the construction of the high level bridge there, were pulling down an adjoining house, they knocked off a part of the plaintiff's roof. That shortly afterwards, on said roof, snow had thawed into water, and the water had made plaintiff's house damp. That the damp thus produced had made plaintiff ill, and that during his illness he was obliged to employ a person to attend to his business, and also a medical man to attend to himself. That thereby he, the plaintiff, had sustained damages to the amount of 10*l.* 4s. 1½d., and was entitled to be reimbursed for these by the defendants. In defence against these successive results of a series of misfortunes comparable only perhaps to those which occurred in the celebrated house which Jack built, Mr. Brewis contended that under the Railway Clauses Consolidation Act, the action should have been brought against the railway company. His honour, however, the judge, thought otherwise; and the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff to the full amount.

WESTMINSTER HALL.—The price given for Mr. Cross's picture of "Richard Cœur de Lion" is, we are informed, six hundred guineas,—not five hundred, as we stated last week; and that paid for Mr. Pickersgill's "Burial of Harold" is four hundred guineas, instead of five. These respective prices are so adjusted as to equalise the sum finally obtained by the respective artists for their several pictures; making it in each case nine hundred guineas, or pounds.—*Athenæum.* For the "Christ healing the Sick in the Temple"—a far inferior picture to Mr. Cross's "King Richard"—the governors of the British Institution gave three hundred guineas. It is now in the National Gallery, and, what is more, undeservedly there. But Mr. Cross must not think that he has already done enough. West died as full of confidence as years, and yet where is he now? Soane died thinking his treasury secure, and Wilkins his National Gallery; yet Barry has destroyed the one, and the trustees of the National Gallery have pretty well determined the fate of the other.—*Daily News.*

PROJECTED WORKS, &c.—Tenders have been called for by advertisement for the erection of a hospital and casual wards at the Bridgwater Union Workhouse; the enlargement by erection of new buildings, &c., of a pauper lunatic asylum, near Oxford; the taking down and rebuilding of a farm-house near Chelmsford; the formation of a sewer of 444 yards in length at Cambridge; the supply of 1,000 yards of good road materials at Bethnal-green; of 20 to 50 tons of fire bar-iron, a quantity of S.C. Staffordshire iron in bars, rods, and sheets, and of zinc in ingots and sheets, also a supply of gas fittings, and of glass in various forms, all for the London and South Coast railway; for a supply of 50,000 memel or oak sleepers for the Leeds and Bradford, also for the execution of a goods shed 40 feet by 28 feet at the Kirkstall station of same line; and for the execution of the whole works on 8½ miles of the Glasgow, Airdrie, and Monklands junction, in one or two contracts.

SMITHFIELD MARKET.—We understand that the plan for improving Smithfield, which appeared in our pages a few weeks ago, is under the consideration of the Common Council. The author of it, there is no objection to stating, is Sir Archibald Duff, of Elgin.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"*Cardiff County Hall.*"—Two correspondents complain that they have not yet heard the result of the competition. A third objects to a correspondent's letter on this subject last week, but we have not room for it.

"*Commissioner of Sewers.*"—We shall not lose sight of the topics mentioned by our correspondent: they are all fairly within our province; most of them indeed have been occasionally treated of.

"*Sir H. C.*"—Is the evidence obtainable?

"*P. E.*"—There is no "substantial substitute." If the chimney is not already constructed, one of slate will be found cheaper, as it needs no lining.

"*A.*"—Write to the agent.

"*A Builder.*"—The asphalted felt may not be used for external covering within the limits of the Buildings Act.

"*H. K.*"—It would be in most cases very inconvenient to use all the parties who reply to advertisements. We should advise clients of works to send copies of testimonials, and not the originals.

Received.—"A. Z." "F. M." "Mr. K." "G. M." "T. H." "A. F." "C. K. C."

"*Books, Prices, and Addresses.*"—We have not time to point out books or find addresses.

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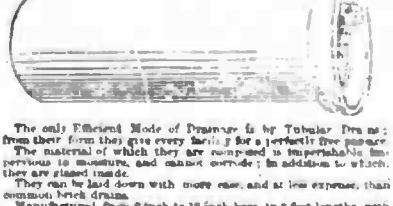

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